

THIS: Newness
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August 10th, 2025

Discussion and Reflection Guide

One of the aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is: the Spirit leads us to NEW things. The Spirit leads us to new life, new direction, new ways of thinking and new ministry. Walking by the Spirit means we are open to the NEWNESS the Spirit is trying to create in us.

When that newness happens – it might feel like discomfort. like uncertainty. A little chaotic and risky... Because the stability of what was, is being shaken so that the new thing can take shape.

This is something the Holy Spirit does consistently in our life. The Spirit shakes what IS so that something NEW can be created. And if you and I are going to walk by the Spirit we have to recognize we are going to have moments like that. And we have to be open to the new things the Spirit is doing.

*** Have you ever had an experience like Jonathan described, one where God led you into something unexpected and new from something that felt sure and stable?**

*** What did that experience feel like? At what point did you know it was the Holy Spirit leading?**

Read and discuss Acts 1:4-8 (NIV)

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

*** What instructions does Jesus give in regards to the Holy Spirit?**

*** What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do when it comes?**

As Jesus sends them out he starts with where they were but then expands it out to places they've never even heard of. To sum up what he is saying – he tells them: *The Spirit will lead you to do new things in new places.* In other words there is something that doesn't yet exist in your life and the Spirit is trying to lead you to it. Maybe a place that you've not yet been. Or a way of thinking you haven't yet considered. Maybe it is a way of serving others that you've never tried.

Some of the ways we can help understand how God is leading us into new things is to – 1. Prayerfully guess. 2. Share your guess with someone and ask them what they think. 3. Consult the Bible. As you do those three things we are trusting that The Spirit is going to lead us to newness. New life, new places, new thinking, and new serving.

*** Do you have a sense of what the NEWNESS might be that the Spirit is leading you towards in this season?**